

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An input unit disposed on an equipment for inputting a user's instruction to ~~an~~ the equipment, comprising:

a cross key having a crossing part, said cross key being physically disposed on the equipment for presenting functions thereof; and

a ~~dot-matrix~~ display arranged to be wedged in said crossing part of said cross key.

2. (currently amended) An input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cross key comprises switch portions, and said ~~dot matrix~~ display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions of said cross key information related to functions assigned to said respective switch portions of said cross key.

3. (currently amended) An input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~dot-matrix~~ display further displays information related to an operation state of the equipment.

4. (currently amended) An input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein a background color of said ~~dot-matrix~~ display is changed in accordance with an operation state of the equipment.

5. (currently amended) An input unit disposed on an equipment for inputting a user's instruction to ~~an~~ the equipment, comprising:

a ~~dot matrix~~ display; and

a plurality of switch portions arranged in surroundings of said ~~dot matrix~~ display at positions sandwiching said ~~dot matrix~~ display so as to oppose to each other, said switch portions being physically disposed on the equipment for presenting functions thereof,

wherein said ~~dot matrix~~ display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the functions respectively assigned to said switch portions.

6. (currently amended) An input unit as claimed in claim 5, wherein said switch portions are respectively arranged at four positions including an upper, a lower, a right, and a left portion of said ~~dot matrix~~ display.

7. (currently amended) An input unit disposed on an equipment for inputting a user's instruction to ~~an~~ the equipment, comprising:

a ~~dot matrix~~ display; and

a switch portion arranged in surroundings of said ~~dot matrix~~ display, said switch portion being physically disposed on the equipment for presenting functions thereof, and said switch portion is assigned with a plurality of the functions including at least a function associated with a relative position with respect to said

~~dot-matrix~~ display.

8. (currently amended) An input unit disposed on an equipment for inputting a user's instruction to ~~an~~ the equipment, comprising:

a ~~dot-matrix~~ display; and

a plurality of switch portions arranged in surroundings of said ~~dot-matrix~~ display, said switch portions being physically disposed on the equipment for presenting functions thereof, and said switch portions respectively assigned with the functions corresponding to relative positions of said plurality of switch portions with respect to said ~~dot-matrix~~ display.

9. (currently amended) An information recording apparatus for recording external information, including an input unit disposed on the recording apparatus for transmitting a user's instruction to said information recording apparatus, said input unit comprising a cross key and a ~~dot-matrix~~ display arranged to be wedged in a crossing of said cross key, wherein said cross key is physically disposed on the recording apparatus for presenting functions thereof.

10. (currently amended) An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said ~~dot-matrix~~ display displays information related to functions assigned to respective switch portions of said cross key in the vicinity of respective switch portions.

11. (currently amended) An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a mode switch for setting an operation mode of said information recording apparatus,

wherein said ~~dot-matrix~~ display displays information related to said operation mode set by said mode switch.

12. (original) An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a display unit for displaying said information,

wherein said input unit and said display unit are arranged on the same face of said information recording apparatus as each other.

13. (original) An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a display unit for displaying said information,

wherein said input unit and said display unit are arranged on the same face of said information recording apparatus as each other.

14. (original) An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said input unit is arranged on a face of said information recording apparatus that faces a user when the user uses said information recording apparatus in such a manner that said input unit is positioned at an upper portion of a center of the face on a right side of the center.

15. (currently amended) An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said ~~dot-matrix~~ display is arranged to have a plurality of background colors, and one of said plurality of background colors is selected in accordance with an operation mode of said information recording apparatus.

16. (original) An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said plurality of background colors include a color for a recording state and another color for a playback state.

17. (currently amended) A digital camera for capturing an image, comprising:

an image-capturing unit operable to capture an image;

a capture controlling unit operable to control said image-capturing unit;

a processing unit operable to process said image; and

an operating unit operable to transmit a user's instruction at least to said processing unit disposed on the digital camera, said operating unit comprising a cross key and a ~~dot-matrix~~ display arranged to be wedged in a crossing of said cross key, wherein said cross key is physically disposed on the digital camera for presenting functions thereof.